

STDs Remain a Significant Threat to the Health of Teens and Young Adults

- Approximately two-thirds of people who acquire STDs are under age 25.
- More than 3 million teens are infected with STDs each year.
- STDs can increase risk of HIV transmission, and can lead to cancer and infertility, if left untreated.
- Often, STDs are easily curable.

Higher state alcohol taxes can reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

- CDC estimates a \$.20 state tax increase per six-pack of beer can reduce overall gonorrhea rates by almost nine percent.
- States that increased their beer tax had larger declines in rates of Gonorrhea among teens and among young adults.

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Enforcement of the minimum drinking age limit helps reduce teenage alcohol consumption.

- Along with higher alcohol prices, strict enforcement of the drinking age can help reduce alcohol consumption, which in turn may decrease risky sexual behavior.
- Gonorrhea rates among teens dropped in the states that increased their legal drinking age.
- On average, Gonorrhea rates were estimated about nearly 7 percent less than they would have been had the drinking age not increased.